

**EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS: FEBRUARY, 1923.**

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Most of the month of February, 1923, was cold, disagreeable, and unfavorable for outdoor operations. The temperature averaged below normal in all sections of the country, except in a few local areas, principally in the Florida Peninsula. Rainfall was heavy in the Southern States, except along the immediate Gulf coast and in Florida there was considerable interruption to farm work because of wet soil. Sunshine was markedly deficient in the west Gulf section where only one-fourth to one-third of the possible amount was received during the month, but there was a high percentage of sunshine from the Great Plains westward, except in the extreme northwest.

A severe cold wave overspread central, southern, and eastern districts, except in Florida, on the 3d-5th. It was especially cold in west Gulf districts, some damage resulting to tender truck crops in that section. On the 14th and 15th, a second widespread cold wave was experienced in the southeast, with frost damage to vegetables and berries in the southern portions of Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama and quite extensive damage to strawberries in northern Florida. Temperature conditions during the last week of the month were more favorable, especially in Central and Northwestern States, while copious and beneficial rains fell

in the Southwest, which were particularly helpful in northwestern Texas and eastern New Mexico.

Wheat was somewhat damaged in parts of the Ohio Valley by the freeze about the middle of the month, particularly that late sown in Kentucky, but otherwise the cold weather apparently did little harm to that crop. Severe drought continued in the western portions of the Plains States, particularly in western Kansas and Oklahoma, and in Nebraska, where wheat suffered from lack of moisture. Otherwise moisture was generally sufficient for this crop. Not much oat seeding was done in the east Gulf States because of unfavorable weather, but this work progressed favorably in the southern Great Plains.

There was considerable unfavorable weather for stock in the Western and Northwestern States, but no serious loss was reported. Heavy feeding was necessary in much of the Northwest. There was sufficient precipitation during the latter part of the month to cause a material improvement in the ranges in northwestern Texas and eastern New Mexico where moisture had been deficient, but more moisture was needed in the western Great Plains. Stock were reported in generally good condition in Central and Eastern States. A storm on the 25th gave much-needed moisture in the eastern portions of Wyoming which was of especial benefit to sheep, while the weather during the latter part of the month was favorable for lambing in California and Oregon.